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Job Vacancies, Australia

Results of the quarterly Job Vacancies Survey containing estimates of job vacancies classified by industry, sector and state/territory.

Reference period February 2023

Released 30/03/2023

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Key statistics

Seasonally adjusted estimates for February 2023:

- Total job vacancies were 438,500, a decrease of 1.5% from November 2022.
- Private sector vacancies were 391,800, a decrease of 1.5% from November 2022.
- Public sector vacancies were 46,700, a decrease of 1.4% from November 2022.

Job vacancies, public and private sector, seasonally adjusted

	Feb-2023	Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	'000	%	%
Private sector	391.8	-1.5	1.7
Public sector	46.7	-1.4	23.4
Private and public sectors	438.5	-1.5	3.6

Survey impacts and changes

Reinstating trend estimates

Since the May 2020 Job Vacancies release, the ABS has used a 'forward factors' method for seasonal adjustment, which is better suited to managing time series during the pandemic. The ABS also suspended trend series.

The ABS is expecting to reinstate Job Vacancies trend estimates and revert to 'concurrent' seasonal adjustment with the May 2023 release.

Other measures of labour demand

In addition to Job Vacancies, there are a number of non-ABS indicators that measure labour demand using alternative concepts, sources and methods. These are also widely used as leading indicators of employment. Prominent examples include the ANZ Job Advertisement Series, the SEEK Employment Report, and the National Skills Commission's Internet Vacancy Index.

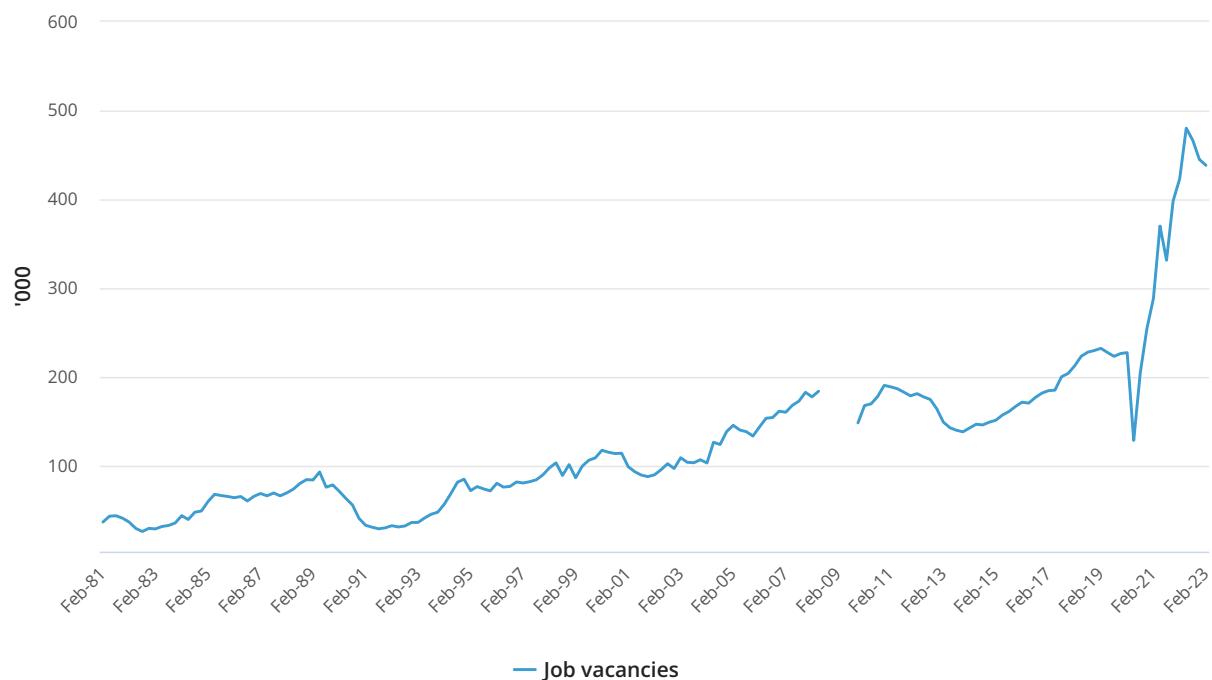
Measures of job vacancies and job advertisements will differ for a number of reasons. One of the key differences is that job vacancies includes jobs for which job advertisements are undertaken but also includes jobs where other recruitment approaches are exclusively used, such as word of mouth or social media. Furthermore, job vacancies count every position advertised within a single notice, while some job advertisements may be used to fill multiple positions.

Job vacancies over time

Job vacancies decreased by 1.5% (6,600 vacancies) in the three months to February 2023

(seasonally adjusted). The decline in job vacancies this quarter was driven by Retail trade. Despite this being the third consecutive quarterly decrease, the level of job vacancies in February 2023 remained elevated. Job vacancies were 92.4% higher than they were in February 2020, prior to the start of the pandemic. The ongoing high level of vacancies reflected the continuing labour shortages in most industries.

Job vacancies, seasonally adjusted



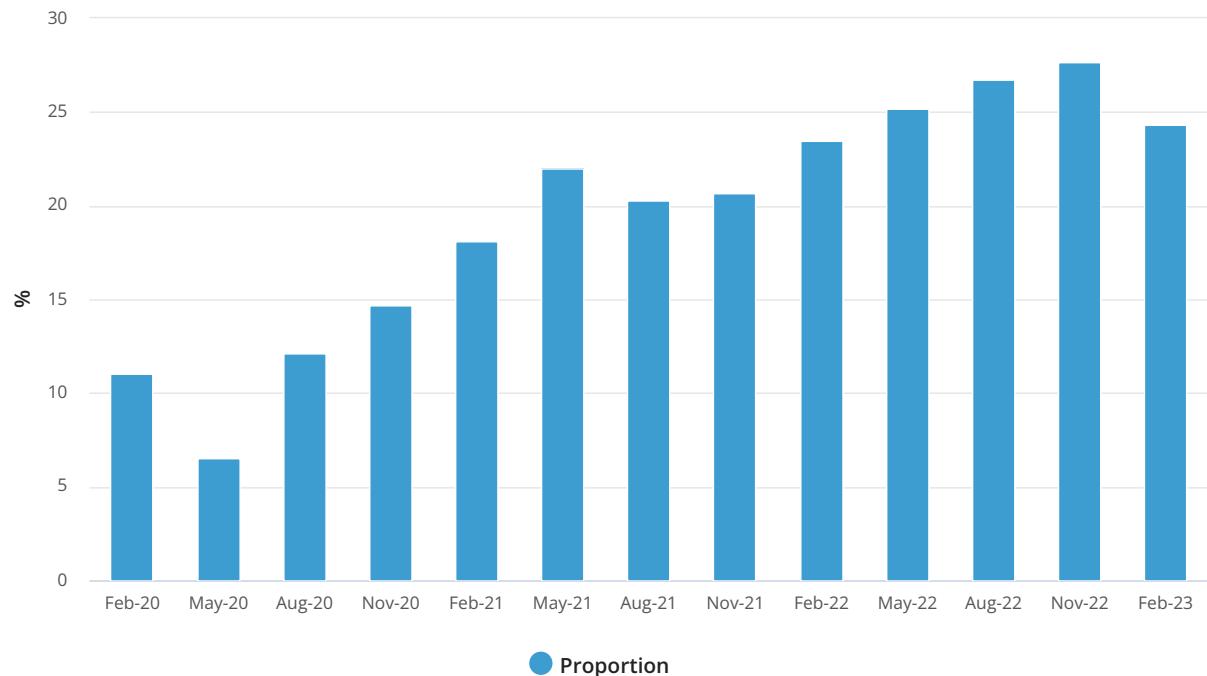
The Job Vacancies Survey was suspended between August 2008 to August 2009 (inclusive).

Businesses reporting vacancies

The number of businesses reporting at least one vacancy shows the extent of the acute reduction in labour demand in May 2020, as well as the subsequent change since then. In February 2020, just prior to the main effects of COVID-19, the proportion of businesses reporting at least one vacancy was 11.0%. In May 2020, a much lower proportion of businesses reported at least one vacancy (6.5%). By November 2022, this had increased to 27.7%. In February 2023, in line with the decrease in the number of vacancies, the

proportion of businesses reporting at least one vacancy also decreased to 24.3%.

Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, Australia



Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, states and territories (%)

	Feb-21	May-21	Aug-21	Nov-21	Feb-22	May-22	Aug-22	Nov-22	Feb
New South Wales	19.6	22.9	19.4	22.3	24.2	26.2	28.9	28.0	
Victoria	18.0	22.0	18.8	21.2	22.9	27.3	27.1	29.2	
Queensland	17.4	22.6	26.9	20.0	26.0	22.8	26.7	28.3	
South Australia	15.7	15.6	13.1	14.7	17.6	17.3	19.7	18.4	
Western Australia	16.3	21.7	21.5	19.5	22.4	28.3	25.2	29.4	
Tasmania	17.8	21.8	15.1	18.5	19.2	19.1	14.0	22.0	
Northern Territory	21.8	26.5	20.8	23.1	27.8	31.6	36.5	35.6	
Australian Capital Territory	12.1	13.8	9.4	13.4	16.6	13.7	15.5	13.7	
Australia	18.1	22.0	20.3	20.7	23.5	25.2	26.7	27.7	

Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, industry (%)

	Feb-21	May-21	Aug-21	Nov-21	Feb-22	May-22	Aug-22	Nov-
Mining	21.1	11.0	18.1	17.1	27.8	24.8	19.3	
Manufacturing	15.3	15.1	22.9	24.9	29.6	22.3	25.9	
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	13.9	12.8	9.9	21.3	39.2	34.5	13.1	
Construction	22.8	26.9	23.3	21.5	24.3	30.3	28.5	
Wholesale trade	15.2	23.6	22.3	20.5	29.5	16.8	26.1	
Retail trade	16.4	21.6	21.4	15.9	16.6	17.7	23.8	
Accommodation and food services	30.5	30.5	18.3	30.9	32.4	34.0	42.5	
Transport, postal and warehousing	20.2	22.0	15.7	17.3	22.4	22.6	25.8	
Information media and telecommunications	18.3	20.0	15.9	15.5	19.8	26.7	20.4	
Financial and insurance services	16.9	20.5	10.3	5.5	14.8	20.0	8.2	
Rental, hiring and real estate services	11.1	16.9	19.3	15.1	20.1	25.2	27.3	
Professional, scientific and technical services	14.5	16.4	15.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	19.4	
Administrative and support services	17.1	23.6	29.8	30.5	36.2	38.3	32.8	
Public administration and safety	30.0	42.2	29.8	27.5	33.5	37.9	37.4	
Education and training	8.6	11.5	9.7	9.1	9.9	14.6	8.3	
Health care and social assistance	13.4	23.3	21.2	26.7	18.9	26.7	33.4	
Arts and recreation services	3.1	14.0	9.3	6.7	8.3	10.2	4.7	
Other services	21.1	22.8	28.1	25.4	32.7	32.7	34.4	
All industries	18.1	22.0	20.3	20.7	23.5	25.2	26.7	

Reasons for vacancies (%)

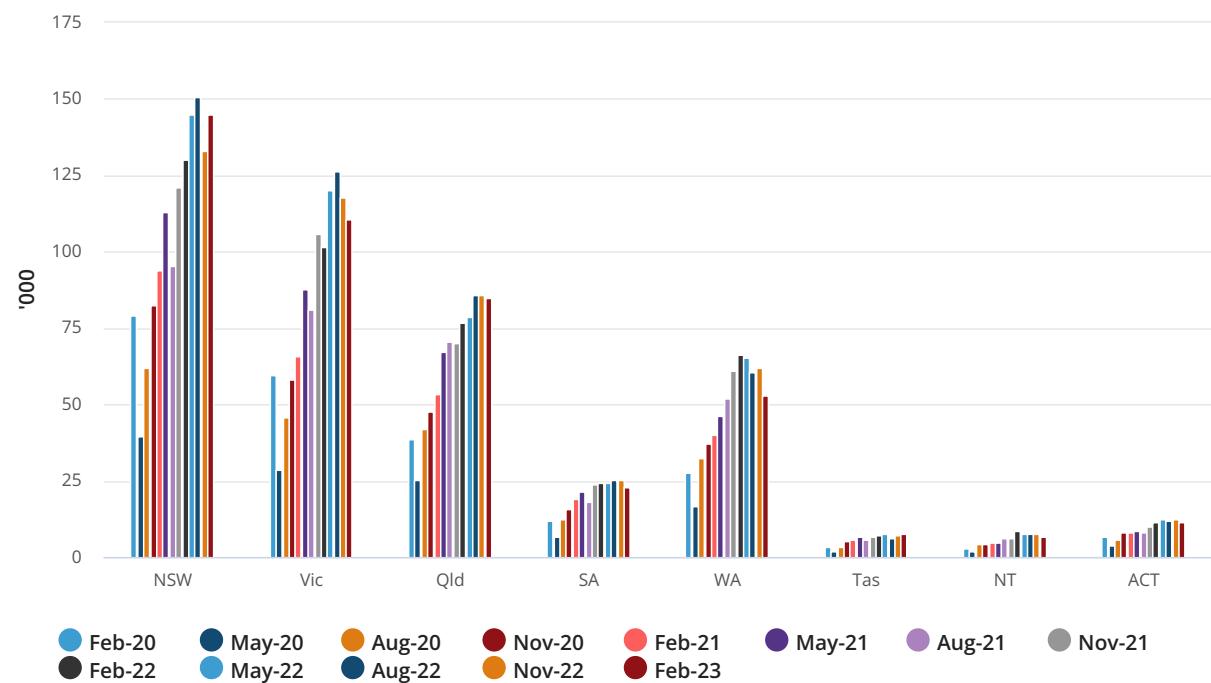
	Feb-21	May-21	Aug-21	Nov-21	Feb-22	May-22	Aug-22
Replacement/resignations	76.2	76.0	75.1	77.4	79.7	80.4	78.2
Increased workload	44.5	45.4	42.3	45.9	47.8	47.0	45.4
Expansion of business	25.4	26.8	25.3	25.7	25.9	27.8	27.8
Restructure	14.0	14.3	15.7	13.8	13.9	14.4	13.2
Relocation	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.9
Seasonal	10.1	10.0	11.4	19.0	12.0	11.6	14.1
Special event	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.8
Takeover	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.0	1.5
Other	8.8	10.3	11.8	12.0	12.9	8.6	7.1

Businesses may have multiple reasons for reporting job vacancies

Proportions are of businesses that reported at least one vacancy

States and territories

Job vacancies, states and territories, original

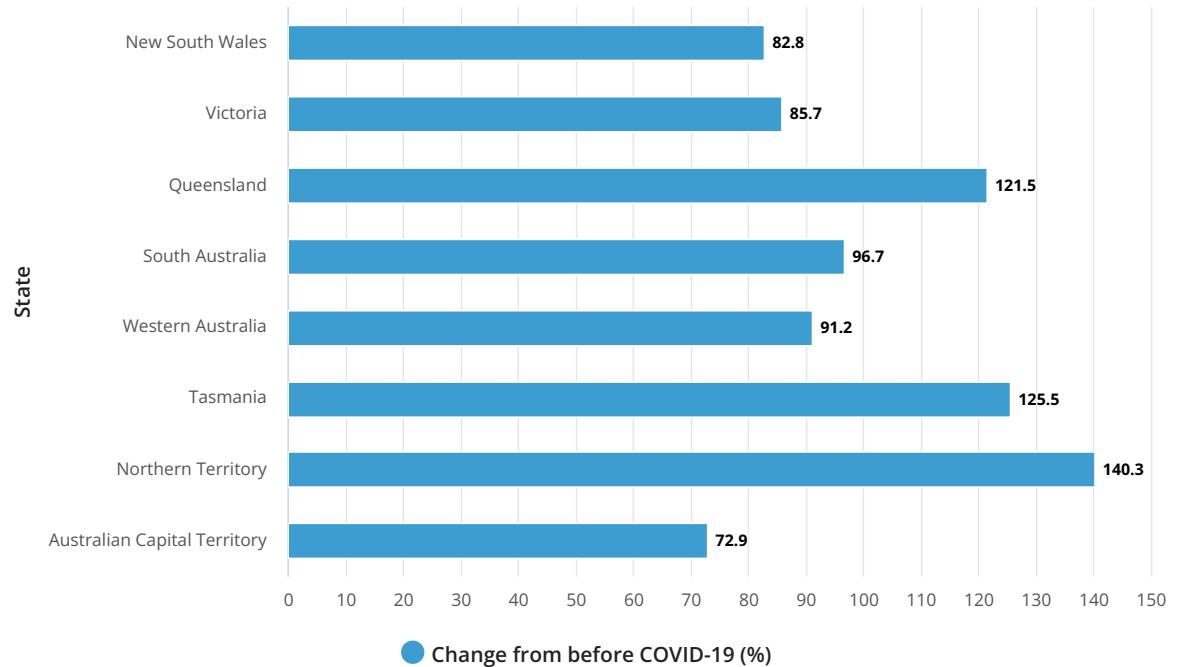


Change in job vacancies, states and territories (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)
Change from previous quarter										
Nov-21	27.0	30.4	-0.4	31.9	16.9	17.3	1.5	23.9	20.1	20.1
Feb-22	7.5	-4.0	9.4	3.1	9.2	7.6	36.6	15.9	5.5	6.2
May-22	11.6	18.0	2.2	0.0	-1.9	2.8	-8.7	7.5	8.0	13.5
Aug-22	3.9	5.4	9.1	3.1	-6.8	-16.6	-1.3	-2.9	3.0	-2.9
Nov-22	-11.8	-7.0	-0.1	0.4	1.9	12.8	-1.7	2.0	-5.2	-4.6
Feb-23	9.0	-5.9	-0.8	-9.4	-14.8	8.4	-8.4	-5.8	-1.8	-1.5
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
Feb-21	18.5	10.0	39.6	65.6	44.8	66.0	68.0	22.8	26.8	26.7
Feb-22	38.3	55.1	43.6	26.5	66.3	29.5	76.4	40.4	46.7	46.5
Feb-23	11.5	8.8	10.5	-6.2	-20.6	4.8	-18.9	0.3	3.7	3.6

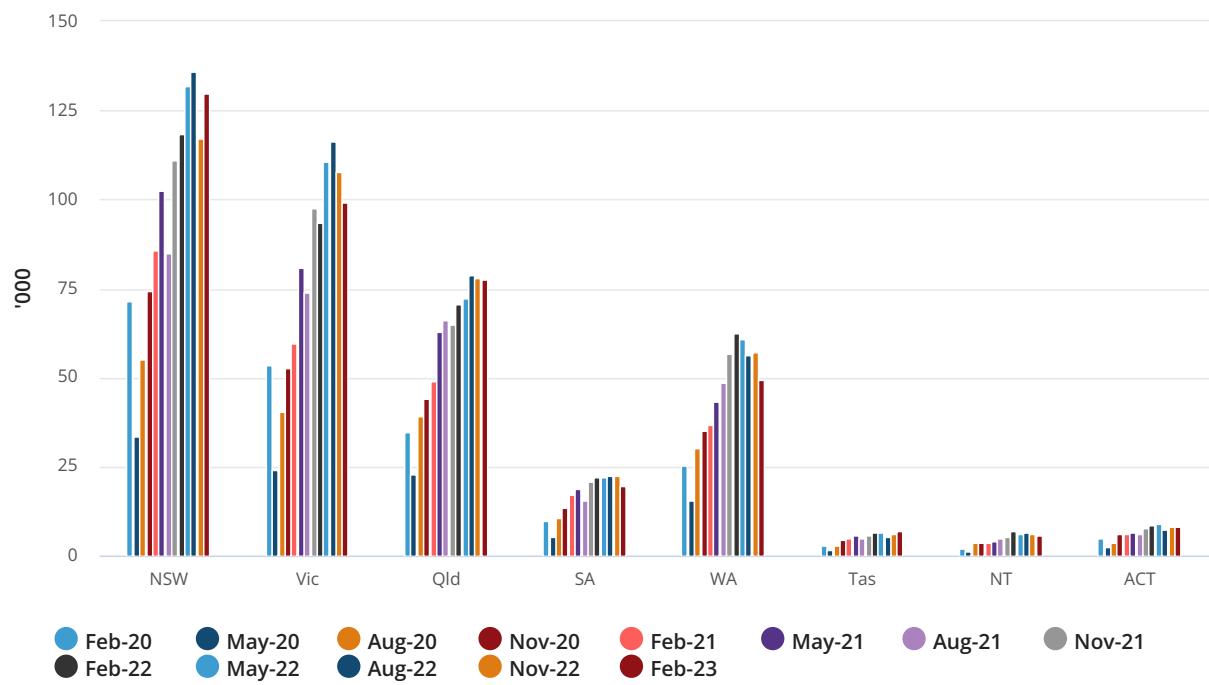
Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Job vacancies, change from February 2020 to February 2023, states and territories, original



Private sector

Job vacancies, private sector, states and territories, original



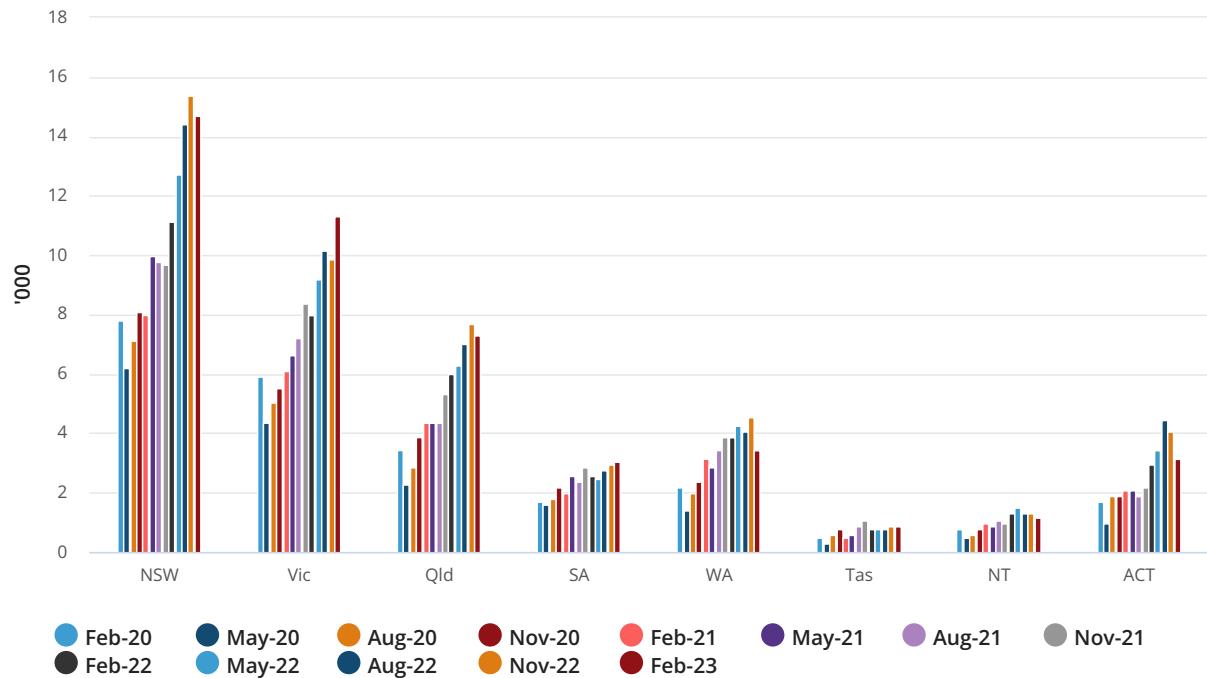
Change in job vacancies, private sector (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)
Change from previous quarter										
Nov-21	30.3	31.8	-2.0	34.4	17.4	16.0	3.6	26.1	21.1	21.0
Feb-22	6.9	-3.9	9.1	4.8	9.9	15.1	37.4	10.5	5.4	5.9
May-22	11.4	18.2	1.9	0.3	-2.7	2.7	-12.3	3.4	7.7	14.0
Aug-22	3.0	5.0	8.9	2.1	-7.0	-18.1	1.5	-14.5	2.3	-4.0
Nov-22	-13.7	-7.4	-1.0	-0.4	1.3	12.1	-2.8	7.8	-6.1	-5.7
Feb-23	10.8	-7.8	-0.4	-11.2	-14.1	9.2	-8.7	2.7	-1.6	-1.5
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
Feb-21	20.4	10.8	41.0	73.4	45.0	75.4	84.5	22.1	28.5	28.5
Feb-22	38.2	57.6	44.1	26.1	70.3	28.0	88.2	41.0	47.9	47.9
Feb-23	9.6	6.0	9.5	-9.4	-21.3	3.0	-21.1	-2.1	1.8	1.7

Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Public sector

Job vacancies, public sector, states and territories, original



Change in job vacancies, public sector (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)
Change from previous quarter										
Nov-21	-1.2	16.1	23.7	16.5	9.5	24.4	-8.3	16.9	10.4	12.2
Feb-22	15.2	-4.6	12.1	-9.1	-0.5	-30.4	31.9	34.6	6.4	9.1
May-22	14.3	15.4	5.4	-2.2	11.4	3.8	11.2	19.2	11.7	8.5
Aug-22	13.3	10.5	11.4	11.3	-4.4	-3.9	-13.5	26.0	10.2	8.8
Nov-22	6.6	-3.0	10.0	6.8	10.9	17.5	4.0	-7.8	4.1	6.0
Feb-23	-4.8	14.7	-5.7	4.3	-23.6	2.7	-7.2	-22.7	-3.5	-1.4
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year										
Feb-21	1.4	3.0	25.4	19.2	42.3	9.9	25.4	24.8	12.8	12.7
Feb-22	40.2	30.7	37.8	30.7	21.1	44.4	31.6	38.6	34.4	34.3
Feb-23	31.5	41.9	21.8	21.2	-9.7	20.4	-7.1	7.1	23.6	23.4

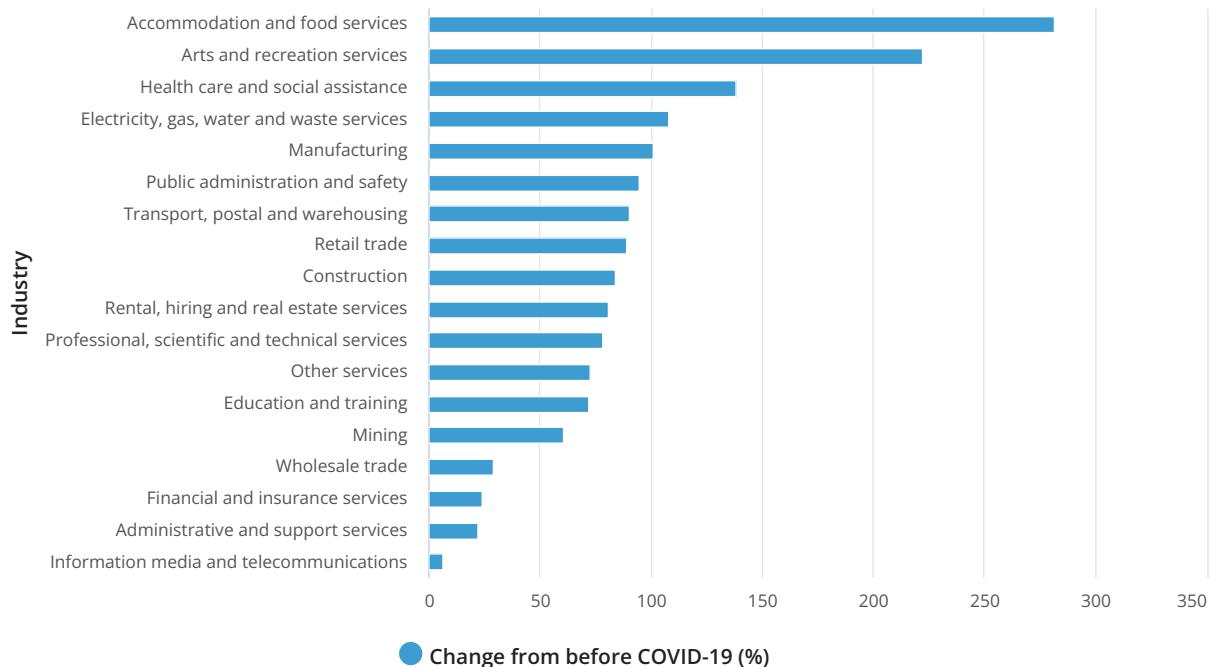
Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Industry

Job vacancies, industry, original ('000)

	Nov-21	Feb-22	May-22	Aug-22	Nov-22	Feb-23
Mining	9.7	10.6	11.2	10.6	9.8	10.6
Manufacturing	29.5	30.6	28.9	28.3	25.9	25.1
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	3.5	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5
Construction	30.0	35.2	39.9	33.5	29.9	31.2
Wholesale trade	16.7	21.7	19.2	20.5	16.6	16.5
Retail trade	36.0	29.1	40.3	46.1	49.9	36.4
Accommodation and food services	45.8	46.1	51.9	59.1	56.3	57.8
Transport, postal and warehousing	13.3	14.7	15.2	17.7	15.4	14.6
Information media and telecommunications	4.7	4.5	5.3	5.4	4.3	3.6
Financial and insurance services	17.0	18.1	20.2	18.6	16.8	14.9
Rental, hiring and real estate services	8.5	9.3	9.7	10.1	9.4	5.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	37.1	42.1	42.9	44.1	40.8	47.6
Administrative and support services	39.9	40.6	38.2	38.0	41.3	38.4
Public administration and safety	18.9	21.5	24.1	27.5	30.1	26.4
Education and training	10.2	11.6	12.7	11.2	11.1	13.5
Health care and social assistance	60.2	60.2	68.9	74.3	62.7	72.4
Arts and recreation services	7.4	6.2	7.2	6.6	7.8	6.6
Other services	16.1	20.7	21.1	18.8	18.0	16.5

Job vacancies, change from February 2020 to February 2023, industry, original



Data Downloads

Trend estimates suspension

Trend estimates have been suspended from May 2020 for all job vacancies series due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.

Time series spreadsheets

[Download all \(325.47 KB\)](#)

Table 1. Job vacancies, states and territories ('000)

[Download XLSX](#)

[93.51 KB]

Table 2. Job vacancies, private sector, states and territories ('000)

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[102.43 KB]

Table 3. Job vacancies, public sector, states and territories ('000)

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[90.61 KB]

Table 4. Job vacancies, industry, Australia ('000) - original

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6354.0.

Methodology

[Job Vacancies, Australia methodology, February 2023](#)